



Show Me Strong Recovery: Public Health

The next phase of Missouri's response

ENDEMIC

What does that mean in public health?

/en' demik/
adjective

Endemic does not mean the end of COVID-19. In public health, the term endemic refers to the constant presence of a disease within a population or geographic area.

Over the last two years in Missouri's emergency response, we expanded capabilities in areas of PPE, testing, vaccinations, hospital capacity, data collection and treatments for COVID-19 that allows us to move to our next phase of recovery.

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Governor of the State of Missouri

A balanced approach

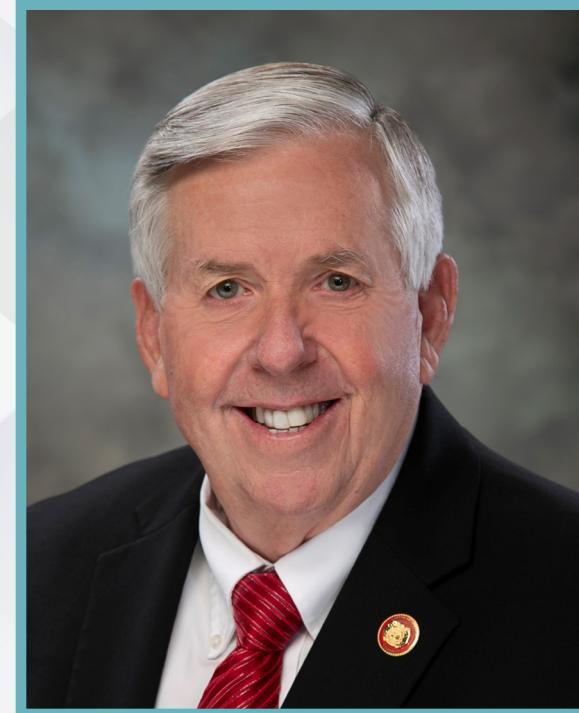
When COVID-19 first struck the United States in early 2020, the level of uncertainty we felt and challenges we faced were unprecedented. We have been in a constant state of adaptation as we have learned more about the virus and how it is affecting our residents.

Month after month in Missouri, we continued to stay the course and maintain our balanced approach in our fight against COVID-19. It was vital that we prioritized Missourians' health, especially of the most vulnerable residents, while also doing everything we could to support Missouri's economy. We have seen so many heroes emerge throughout the past two years.

Those working day in and day out on the front lines in public health and in health care, to help residents have the best possible health outcomes, are the heroes of the pandemic. One thing we have always been able to predict is that Missouri would emerge on the other side of this pandemic with resilience and stronger than ever before. Now, we are excited to be able to transition out of pandemic status and look forward to this next endemic phase of recovery for Missouri.

The signature is written in a flowing, cursive script. It appears to read "Michael L. Parson" with a horizontal line through the "L".

Michael L. Parson
Governor of the State of Missouri



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Future of public health is bright

We have all learned much during the COVID-19 response and public health recognizes we will continue to learn from research and reviews for decades to come. As we enter this next phase of our state's recovery, we continue to encourage Missourians to safeguard their own health and the health of loved ones through tried and true public health measures.

We are energized to move forward with a focus on decreasing morbidity and mortality among all Missourians, assuring safety in our regulated facilities and enhancing Missouri's public health and health care workforces. Those working in public health, health care and all human service organizations have adapted and communicated effectively to serve citizens - their efforts these past two years have been remarkable. The partnerships bolstered during COVID-19 by public health with aligned partners will reinforce our ability to serve each of you in a more holistic manner with a focus on health equity.

The future for public health in Missouri is bright with tremendous opportunities for collaboration, systems integration and enhanced services to all citizens. We look forward to the challenge and to serving you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula F. Nickelson".

Paula F. Nickelson
Acting Director





— Missouri activates incident command at DHSS



— First PCR test administered (result negative)



— First positive SARS-CoV-2 case confirmed
COVID-19 hotline established
COVID-19 dashboard debuts



— PPE warehouse established, PPE marketplace created
and Battelle decontamination system available to
health care



Missouri National Guard begins assisting DHSS in
hosting community testing events
— Remdesivir, the first antiviral, authorized by FDA and
deployed by the State of Missouri



— Wastewater surveillance begins



— K-12 school reopening guidance announced
Electronic COVID-19 reporting system launched



— Missouri reached 1 million individuals tested (PCR)
Improved COVID-19 dashboard launched



— Missouri submits vaccine distribution plan to CDC
K-12 antigen test distribution begins



— MOStopsCovid.com goes live
Bamlanivimab, the first monoclonal antibody,
authorized by FDA



— Pfizer and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines authorized
First vaccine administered in Missouri to Phase 1A
Variant hospital staffing support contracted

Missouri's COVID-19 Timeline



- Phase 1B (Tiers 1 and 2) becomes vaccine eligible
- Improved COVID-19 dashboard launched
- Vaccines data reported on COVID-19 dashboard
- Mass vaccination sites initiated with MONG & SEMA
- Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine authorized
- Missouri Vaccine Navigator launched



— Phase 1B (Tier 3) and Phase 2 become vaccine eligible

— Phase 3 becomes vaccine eligible

— Missouri announced free at-home PCR test kit

— Missouri Vaccine Incentive Program implemented

— Monoclonal antibody treatment sites stood up
— K-12 school screening testing program announced
— SLSCO hospital staffing support contracted

— Pfizer booster shots authorized by FDA

— Moderna and Johnson & Johnson booster shots
authorized by FDA

— Pfizer authorized for children ages 5-11 by FDA
— Boosters available for all Missourians 18+

— Paxlovid, the first oral antiviral, is authorized by FDA



Show Me Strong Recovery: Our Pillars

Expanded public health capabilities with resilience

When a new virus emerges, public health as a whole, from local public health agencies to large hospital systems, begins to learn and adapt. Our state prioritized four pillars to accelerate recovery and support the health care system in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Missouri State Public Health Laboratory

Built the testing capacity we needed here at home

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory has been a central part of the testing pillar in response to COVID-19. Our team's work included specimen testing, supporting external lab partners, assisting new testing providers and coordinating work on testing and supply distribution. In 2021, in addition to continuing to provide COVID-19 testing support, the MSPHL was also able to implement COVID-19 variant sequencing, as well as onboard an electronic test ordering and reporting system to aid COVID-19 testing providers to easily submit samples and quickly receive result reports. This effort also created several efficiencies within the MSPHL and the state's laboratory network.



Testing Capacity
14+ Million Tests Performed
by public health partners



Treatment Options
81,000+ Treatment Courses Distributed
by the State of Missouri



Vaccine Availability
8.7+ Million Doses Administered
by public health partners



Show Me Strong Recovery: Missouri Metrics Driving Our Decisions

Understanding how the virus is moving and evolving

We are now entering a new phase of the COVID-19 response as vaccines, tests and treatments are readily available and much of our population has some immunity to the virus. The SARS-CoV-2 virus is expected to continue to circulate in our communities and, therefore, will be considered endemic in the United States. The endemicity also means that surveillance priority will change from monitoring case numbers to monitoring disease severity and societal impact.

Surveillance of key metrics will help us remain vigilant and return to an emergency response state if necessary. The transition of COVID-19 to an endemic disease is not a declaration of the end of the pandemic and does not minimize the continued importance of public health surveillance, investigation and response activities.

Surveillance efforts have been made possible by efforts at the local, state and federal level over the last two years. We will use the metrics below to ensure the availability of the data and information needed to monitor COVID-19 trends, and promptly identify and respond to emerging concerns.



Local Outbreaks



Hospitalizations



Deaths



Variant Sequencing



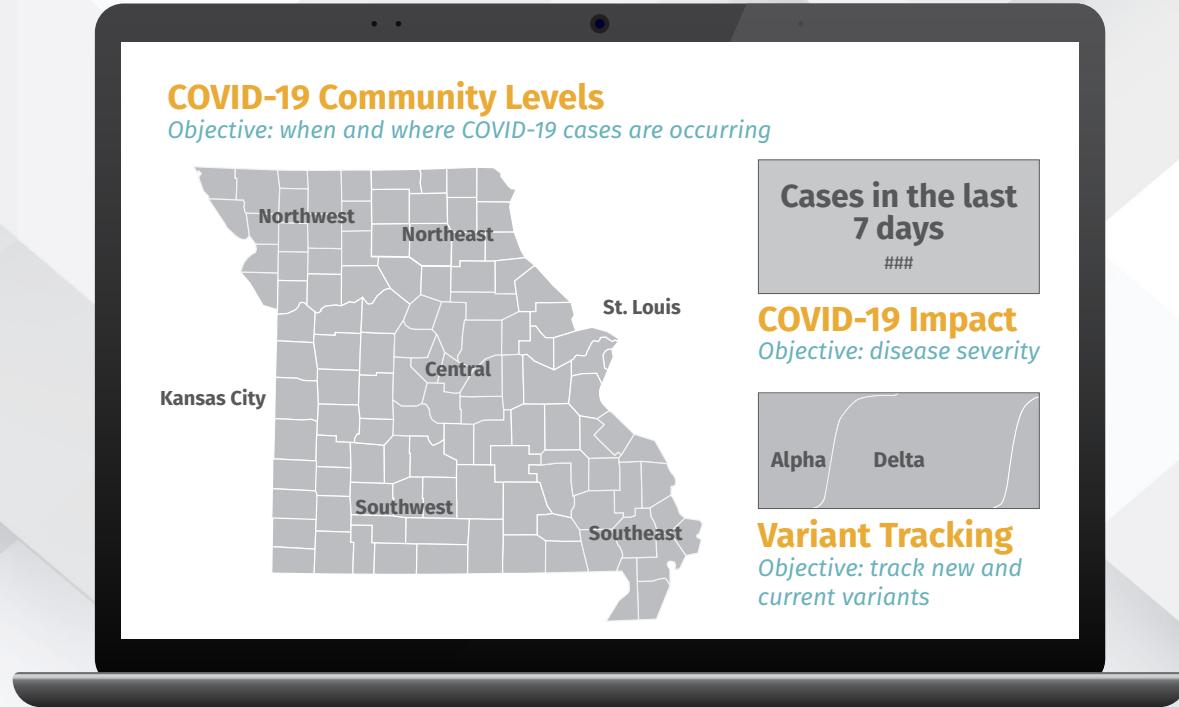
Sewershed Testing



**Positivity Rates
(Reporting Hospitals Only)**



Case & Illness Reports



Show Me Strong Recovery: Public Health *New objectives focused on endemic surveillance*

As the pandemic continues to evolve it is important that we continue to have a robust yet flexible approach to surveillance for COVID-19. The approach must continue to provide the data needed to enable local and state health officials to (1) identify when and where COVID-19 cases are occurring; (2) determine what SARS-CoV-2 viruses are circulating and rapidly detect mutations and new variants; and (3) measure the disease severity and impact of COVID-19-associated illnesses.

Pandemic Response

Before April 1, 2022

- Dashboard Reporting Frequency**
Daily Reporting (Sunday - Saturday)
- Data & Metrics**
Emphasis on individual case reporting & developing new data connections
- Vaccine, Testing & Therapeutics**
Provided for free to citizens through the federal government to mitigate disease spread & impact
- Case Data Publication**
Cases and 7-day total, as well as local & statewide positivity rates, published by the state
- Contact Tracing**
Universal case investigation & contact tracing
- PPE Warehouse**
Established Missouri PPE warehouse
- Information**
COVID-19 hotline and website resources including MOStopsCovid.com



Endemic Surveillance

As of April 1, 2022

- Dashboard Reporting Frequency**
Reduced Reporting (Weekly)
- Data & Metrics**
Emphasis on tracking COVID-19 disease severity through hospital surveillance & preserving data flows
- Vaccine, Testing & Therapeutics**
Continues as long as federal resources persist, but will shift to traditional health care delivery over time
- Case Data Publication**
Total cases for last 7 days published once per week by the state
- Contact Tracing**
Encouraged at local level for vulnerable populations
- PPE Warehouse**
Maintain PPE supplies for emergency preparedness
- Information**
COVID-19 hotline and website resources including MOStopsCovid.com



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